

Choosing to use alcohol or other drugs
can limit the choices you will have.

VANDALISM &
VIOLENCE

What if I am driving friends and they start hitting mailboxes with a bat? Am I guilty even though I didn't swing the bat?

If you knew, encouraged, or even aided your friends in the destruction of any property, you may be guilty.



What if my friends and I take flags from a grave in the cemetery?

This is not a prank; you have committed a felony.

If you remove or damage **any** property in a cemetery you have committed a crime. If convicted, you can be sentenced to 5 years in prison or DYS until the age of 18.



What if I paint graffiti on a school building?

If you put graffiti on anyone else's property you have committed the crime of tagging. If you have a license it will be suspended for one year. If you don't have a license you will have to wait an extra year to get one.



What if the graffiti is a swastika or some racially derogatory term?

In addition to tagging, you have committed a hate crime and will be punished for a civil rights violation.



What if I am driving around with my friend and I know he has a GUN with him?

Even if it is not your gun, you may be guilty of possession of a handgun.



For more information about prevention and treatment for substance abuse contact:

Massachusetts Substance Abuse Information and Education Helpline

800.327.5050

www.helpline-online.com

For additional copies of this pamphlet, call:

Executive Office of Public Safety

617.727.0786

don't forget

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CHOOSE
to keep
your
FREEDOM

Developed by
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The MA Department of Public Health
and
The Governor's Alliance Against Drugs

THE CHOICE IS YOURS

You may be surprised that choices you make today may have life-long consequences.

Making bad decisions about alcohol and other drugs, vandalism, or violence can jeopardize your school activities, extracurricular sports and clubs, college admissions and financial aid for college.

A criminal record, even for juveniles, does not disappear and can prevent you from getting a job or joining the military.

Penalties, or punishments for breaking the law, include but are not limited to:



Mandatory Sentence



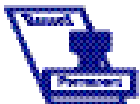
Possible Prison Sentence



Monetary Fine



Loss of License and/or Eligibility to get License



Permanent Juvenile or Criminal Record

If you are 17 or older and commit a crime, you are considered an adult and you will be subject to adult sentences, including the possibility of going to prison.

If you are under 17 and commit a crime, you may be sentenced to the Department of Youth Services (DYS).

ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS

Using ALCOHOL or other DRUGS can cause you to make poor decisions that could result in a criminal record.

What if I take my older brother's license to buy alcohol but the store doesn't sell to me; have I broken a law?

If you use someone else's license or any fake I.D. you have broken the law. Even if you don't get the alcohol, it is still a crime.



What if my friend, who is 21, buys alcohol and gives it to me?

You both have committed a crime.



What if I drive friends to a party and they bring their beer and put it in my trunk?

If you are under 21, you are a minor transporting or possessing alcohol. If convicted, your license will be suspended for 90 days. You can be fined and you will have a juvenile or criminal record.



What if I am the designated driver while my friends are drinking in my car?

You cannot allow people to drink in your car while you drive. You are guilty even if you are not drinking.

If you and your friends are under 21 and they are drinking in your car, you are a minor transporting or possessing alcohol. If convicted, your license will be suspended for 90 days. You can be fined and you will have a juvenile or a criminal record.



What if I give drugs to another student on school grounds?

You don't have to sell drugs to be guilty of distribution.



What if my friend asks me to hold her marijuana and I give it back to her later?

DON'T ACCEPT IT! Once you accept it, you are in possession. **DON'T PASS IT ON!** If you pass it on to someone, you have distributed drugs knowingly and intentionally.



What if I know my friend is selling drugs and I let him keep them in my car or locker?

You don't have to sell drugs yourself to be guilty.

Even if they are your friend's drugs, you may still be convicted of possession or conspiracy to distribute.



You have the freedom to make your own decisions.

What if I give one of my prescription pills to a friend at school?

You don't have to sell drugs to be guilty of distribution.

